

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00024 031351Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 00024

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT CSCE UR
SUBJECT: THE RAID ON THE UKRAINIAN CSCE GROUP

REF: 76 MOSCOW 20095

1. YURIY ORLOV, THE LEADER AND ORGANIZER OF THE UNOFFICIAL GROUP TO MONITOR THE SOVIET OBSERVANCE OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT, HAS GIVEN US SOME ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE DECEMBER 24 RAID ON THE APARTMENTS OF THOSE MEMBERS OF THE UKRAINIAN CHAPTER OF THE GROUP RESIDENT IN KIEV (REFTEL).

2. ACCORDING TO ORLOV, THE SEARCHERS CONFISCATED A GREAT DEAL OF CSCE-RELATED MATERIAL, SOME OF WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN USED IN REPORTS ON APPARENT VIOLATIONS OF THE FINAL ACT IN THE UKRAINE. MORE IMPORTANT, THOUGH, IS MATERIAL THAT THE KGB APPARENTLY PLANTED DURING ITS SEARCH. THIS MATERIAL PROVIDES EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE SOME SERIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGES. IN ONE CASE, THAT OF POET MIKOLA RUDENKO, THE LEADER OF THE UKRAINIAN CHAPTER, A SUM OF FOREIGN CURRENCY-- SEVERAL HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS--WAS "CONFISCATED" AND APPEARS IN THE LIST OF OBJECTS TAKEN. IN ANOTHER, THE MATERIAL FOUND WAS DESCRIBED AS "PORNOGRAPHIC," THOUGH ORLOV HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION
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ABOUT IT.

3. A THIRD CASE IS POTENTIALLY MORE SERIOUS, BUT THE EVIDENCE IS AMBIGUOUS. AN AUTOMATIC PISTOL WAS SEIZED BY THE SEARCHERS AND IS LISTED IN THE OFFICIAL PROTOCOL REGARDING THE SEARCH. IT IS NOT, HOWEVER, CLEAR WHENCE THE PISTOL, A WORLD WAR II GERMAN AUTOMATIC, CAME. IT IS

AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT THE PISTOL WAS A WAR SOUVENIR THAT ONCE BELONGED TO THE FATHER OF THE MAN IN WHOSE APARTMENT IT WAS FOUND. ORLOV OBSERVES THAT WHETHER THE PISTOL WAS PLANTED OR NOT, THE POSSESSION OF SUCH AN ITEM IS A VERY SERIOUS CRIME UNDER SOVIET LAW.

4. IN ADDITION TO THOSE REASONS CITED REFTTEL FOR THE TIMING OF THE RAID, ORLOV COMMENTED THAT CHRISTMAS IS A TRADITIONAL TIME FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO MOVE AGAINST DISSIDENTS. THE OFFICIAL REASONING, PRESUMABLY, IS THAT THE WESTERN NEWSPAPERS WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO CONCERN THEMSELVES WITH SOVIET DISSIDENCE DURING THE HOLIDAY PERIOD. ORLOV, REGRETFULLY, OBSERVED THAT THE REASONING SEEMS VALID SINCE HE HAD TROUBLE GETTING ANY MOSCOW-BASED CORRESPONDENT INTERESTED IN THE KIEV RAIDS. TOON

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